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In concluding this hasty sketch of the recent progress of Assurance in France, many interesting topics are unavoidably left unnoticed. In 1848 the Fire Insurance Companies were threatened with absorption into the general official business of the State. The fear of the violent changes which must naturally have taken place in their constitution and management,—and still more, the heavy premiums which are always found necessary in countries where assurances are undertaken by the Government,—caused a feeling of alarm, and gave a check to their operations from which the Companies were a considerable time in recovering.

In October, 1850, a new law was passed, requiring that all future policies should be issued with a proportionate stamp, according to the increase in amount, or the duration of the policies; and that all existing policies should be liable to a small fixed duty of 35 centimes. Since then other taxes have been threatened; and unless the Companies are constantly on the alert, they may be subjected to the same penalties which in this country at the present time are impeding the extension and usefulness of these great institutions. The attention of the French public has lately been turned with increased force to the principles of Life Assurance; and if the same energy and spirit should be displayed as in the Fire branch, a vast increase may be looked for in the course of the next few years.

Statistics of Suicide. By R. THOMPSON JOPLING, Esq., F.S.S.

[Continued from vol. i., page 316.]

BEFORE entering upon the present paper, I must request the reader's careful perusal of the "Statistics of Suicide" published in the last Number of the *Assurance Magazine*. The suicides there given are those which took place in London during the three years 1846-48; and I now purpose adding those for the duennial period 1849-50;—thus making five complete years, viz. from 1846 to 1850 inclusive.

The facts now brought forward are collected from documents in the General Register Office, which have not yet been published, but have been furnished me by the Registrar-General; and I cannot take a better opportunity than the present of tendering my thanks to that gentleman, for the courteous manner in which he

has afforded me every facility for completing, and consequently rendering much more valuable, the present paper. I am also indebted to Mr. Farr for some valuable advice, given with his usual unreserved liberality, on several points in this paper.

Without making any comment on the three years before given, I shall at once introduce the facts for the years 1849 and 1850. The total number of ascertained suicides which took place in the two years, in London, was 442; and the distribution of these over different ages will be seen in the following table:—

TABLE III.—*Ascertained Suicides, London, 1846-50.*

AGE.	1849.		1850.		1849-50.		Total of 5 Yrs. 1846-50.			AGE.	1849.		1850.		1849-50.		Total of 5 Yrs. 1846-50.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Both.		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Both.
9	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	48	1	..	1	1	2	1	11	4	15
10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	49	2	..	5	2	7	2	20	8	28
11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	50	3	4	11	4	14	8	23	11	34
12	..	..	1	..	1	..	2	1	3	51	4	1	2	..	6	1	14	5	19
13	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	52	5	..	3	..	8	..	19	5	24
14	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	3	4	53	5	..	8	2	13	5	23	5	28
15	..	..	1	..	1	..	2	1	3	54	1	2	3	1	4	3	14	4	18
16	..	..	..	1	..	1	5	6	11	55	3	2	3	..	6	2	16	6	22
17	..	2	2	..	2	2	8	9	17	56	6	..	2	1	8	1	15	3	18
18	2	..	4	1	6	1	15	10	25	57	3	1	1	1	4	2	11	3	14
19	..	2	2	2	2	4	6	18	24	58	2	2	2	1	4	3	11	9	20
20	3	..	2	..	5	..	10	4	14	59	4	1	2	..	6	1	11	4	15
21	2	..	..	1	2	1	8	10	18	60	8	..	4	1	12	1	25	4	29
22	2	1	1	2	3	3	12	8	20	61	2	..	..	..	2	..	5	3	8
23	2	2	2	2	4	4	12	13	25	62	1	..	1	..	2	..	7	1	8
24	1	1	4	..	5	1	18	10	28	63	3	1	2	..	5	1	11	5	16
25	2	6	..	3	2	9	12	13	25	64	2	..	2	1	4	1	10	5	15
26	1	3	4	2	5	5	16	13	29	65	2	1	5	..	7	1	10	2	12
27	2	1	2	1	4	2	12	7	19	66	1	..	..	..	1	..	3	..	3
28	4	3	2	..	6	3	13	12	25	67	1	1	4	..	5	1	10	4	14
29	1	1	6	1	7	2	12	6	18	68	2	..	1	..	3	..	8	..	8
30	3	1	4	2	7	3	18	8	26	69	1	..	1	..	2	..	5	1	6
31	2	1	1	1	3	2	9	5	14	70	1	..	..	1	1	1	4	2	6
32	2	2	2	3	4	5	13	12	25	71	2	1	1	2	3	3	3	4	7
33	..	1	5	1	5	2	18	6	24	72	1	..	2	..	3	..	9	1	10
34	2	2	3	2	5	4	15	10	25	73	1	..	..	1	1	1	1	1	2
35	3	1	5	2	8	3	20	10	30	74	1	..	1	..	2	..	7	1	8
36	1	1	2	1	3	2	11	5	16	75	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
37	4	3	1	4	5	7	25	10	35	76	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	3
38	9	3	7	3	16	6	28	10	38	77	..	1	..	..	1	..	2	1	3
39	3	1	3	..	6	1	19	3	22	78	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	3
40	2	2	4	3	6	5	22	10	32	79	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	2
41	1	1	4	..	5	1	17	5	22	80	..	1	..	..	1	..	2	2	2
42	..	2	2	3	2	5	13	15	28	81	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1
43	2	1	4	..	6	1	14	4	18	82	2	..	..	..	2	..	4	..	4
44	2	..	2	3	4	3	17	7	24	83	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	2
45	4	2	4	1	8	3	27	4	31	84	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	3
46	4	1	2	1	6	2	19	6	23	85	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
47	8	..	3	4	11	4	22	10	32	Not Stated	..	..	..	1	..	1	4	2	6

A better view of this table will be seen by an examination of the following abstract:—

ABSTRACT B.—*Ascertained Suicides, London, 1846–50.*

AGES.	1849.		1850.		1849-50.		Total of 5 Years. 1846-50.		
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Both.
9	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2
10 to 14	..	..	1	1	1	1	3	4	7
15 „ 19	2	4	9	4	11	8	36	44	80
20 „ 24	10	4	9	5	19	9	60	45	105
25 „ 29	10	14	14	7	24	21	65	51	116
30 „ 34	9	7	15	8	24	16	73	40	113
35 „ 39	20	9	18	10	38	19	103	38	141
40 „ 44	7	6	16	9	23	15	83	41	124
45 „ 49	19	3	15	9	34	12	99	32	131
50 „ 54	18	10	27	7	45	17	93	30	123
55 „ 59	18	6	10	3	28	9	64	25	89
60 „ 64	16	1	9	2	25	3	58	18	76
65 „ 69	7	2	11	..	18	2	36	7	43
70 „ 74	6	1	4	4	10	5	24	9	33
75 „ 79	..	1	..	..	..	..	7	3	10
80 „ 84	2	1	1	..	3	1	9	3	12
Not stated	..	..	..	1	..	1	4	2	6
Total . . .	144	69	159	70	303	139	819	392	1211

From this abstract it appears that the total number of suicides committed in the five years was 1211; and of these 819 were males, and 392 females,—the proportion of females to males being about 48 per cent.

This is strangely at variance with the proportion of crime in the sexes; for by referring to vol. xi., p. 153, of the *Journal of the Statistical Society*,* it will be found that the tendency to crime in the male sex is nearly five times greater than that in the female; whereas suicide appears to be only twice as great.

It will be seen that the age at which there was the greatest number of suicides was from 35 to 40; but to be enabled to judge of the age when suicide was *actually* the greatest, recourse must be had to the population at different ages.

The population of London

In 1841 was	{ Males	912,001
	{ Females	1,036,368
		<hr/> 1,948,369

* On the “Statistics of Crime in England and Wales,” by F. G. P. Neison, Esq., F.L.S., &c.

In 1851	{	Males	1,096,275
		Females	1,257,551
			<u>2,353,826</u>

and the period between the two censuses 9·8137 years. Hence the annual rate of increase among males was 1·8930 per cent. ; among females, 1·9906 ; or both sexes conjointly, 1·9450 per cent.

In the construction of the following tables, (Tables IV., V., and VI.,) these rates of increase of population have been assumed for all ages.

TABLE IV.—*Ascertained Suicides, London, 1846–50.*

MALES.					
AGES.	Population in 1848 × 5 = (1) Deaths from Suicide in 5 years × 100 = (2)	λ (1) λ (2)	λ (2) – λ (1)	Annual Mortality per Cent.	Or, One yearly in
10 to 14	504,285 300	5·7026761 2·4771213	6·7744452	·00059	168,095
15 „ 24	997,695 9,600	5·9989978 3·9822712	7·9832734	·00962	10,393
25 „ 34	945,505 13,800	5·9756638 4·1398791	8·1642153	·01460	6,866
35 „ 44	685,350 18,600	5·8359124 4·2695129	·4336005	·02714	3,685
45 „ 54	445,665 19,200	5·6490086 4·2833012	·6342926	·04308	2,321
55 „ 64	247,275 12,200	5·3931802 4·0863598	·6931796	·04934	2,027
65 „ 74	119,585 6,000	5·0776767 3·7781513	·7004746	·05017	1,993
75 „ 84	34,075 1,600	4·5324359 3·2041200	8·6716841	·04696	2,130
15 to 84	3,475,150 81,000	6·5409736 4·9084850	8·3675114	·02331	4,290

TABLE V.—*Ascertained Suicides, London, 1846–50.*

FEMALES.					
AGES.	Population in 1848 × 5 = (1) Deaths from Suicide in 5 years × 100 = (2)	λ (1) λ (2)	λ (2) — λ (1)	Annual Mortality per Cent.	Or, One yearly in
10 to 14	512,005 400	5·7092742 2·6020600	6·8927858	·00078	128,001
15 „ 24	1,249,665 8,900	6·0967935 3·9493900	7·8525965	·00712	14,014
25 „ 34	1,146,915 9,100	6·0595313 3·9590414	7·8995101	·00793	12,603
35 „ 44	781,460 7,900	5·8929068 3·8976271	8·0047203	·01011	9,891
45 „ 54	505,850 6,200	5·7040218 3·7923917	·0883699	·01226	8,157
55 „ 64	294,220 4,300	5·4686722 3·6334685	·1647963	·01461	6,845
65 „ 74	159,915 1,600	5·2038892 3·2041200	·0002308	·01001	9,990
75 „ 84	54,905 600	4·7396119 2·7781513	8·0385394	·01093	9,149
15 to 84	4,192,930 38,600	6·6225176 4·5865873	7·9640697	·00921	10,863

TABLE VI.—*Ascertained Suicides, London, 1848–50.*

MALES AND FEMALES.					
10 to 14	1,016,290 700	6·0070176 2·8450980	6·8380804	·00069	145,184
15 „ 24	2,247,360 18,500	6·3516727 4·2671717	7·9154990	·00823	12,148
25 „ 34	2,092,420 22,900	6·3206489 4·3598355	8·0391866	·01094	9,141
35 „ 44	1,466,810 26,500	6·1663739 4·4232459	·2568720	·01807	5,534
45 „ 54	951,515 25,400	5·9784157 4·4048337	·4264180	·02669	3,747
55 „ 64	541,495 16,500	5·7335944 4·2174839	·4838895	·03047	3,282
65 „ 74	279,500 7,600	5·4463818 3·8808136	·4344318	·02719	3,678
75 „ 84	88,980 2,200	4·9492924 3·3424227	8·3931303	·02472	4,045
15 to 84	7,668,080 119,600	6·8846867 5·0777312	8·1930445	·01560	6,411

The facts shown in these tables are very remarkable. It will be seen that suicide under 15 years of age is comparatively nothing,—the deaths for both sexes being only 1 in 145,184 of the population. On referring to Table IV., it will be found that suicide among males is greatest between the ages 65 and 75, when it is 1 annually in 1,993 of the population; and remains nearly the same between 45 and 85. By Table V., suicide with females appears to be greatest between 55 and 65. For both sexes, between the ages 15 and 85, the deaths are 1 yearly in 6,411 of the population. It may be interesting to compare this with the results of other countries. According to M. Quetelet, we have the following:—

Russia	.	.	.	.	1	in 49,182 annually.
Austria	.	.	.	.	1	" 20,900 "
France	.	.	.	.	1	" 18,000 "
State of Pennsylvania	.	.	.	.	1	" 15,875 "
Prussia	.	.	.	.	1	" 14,404 "
City of Baltimore	.	.	.	.	1	" 13,656 "
Boston	.	.	.	.	1	" 12,500 "
New York	.	.	.	.	1	" 7,797 "

In and around Paris, the deaths from suicide between 1817 and 1825 were 1 in 2,400; in Berlin, from 1813 to 1822, 1 in 2,941; and in Geneva, from 1820 to 1826, 1 in 3,985 annually. It has been observed in Paris that suicide has regularly increased: from 1829 to 1833, it was 1 in 1666!

Russia forms a striking example of little or no suicide,—the deaths being only 1 annually in every 49,182 of the population. It will be observed, however, that suicide in large tracts of country is comparatively small,—confining itself in a great measure to the large towns. Now, although we have in Paris 1 yearly in every 1,666 of the population, yet it will be seen that in the *whole* of France it is only 1 in 18,000. These figures, however, all under-rate the actual amount of suicide in the various places, in consequence of the results being found by dividing the *total* of the population by the total number of suicides. This is evidently erroneous, for we rarely have a case of suicide before 15 years of age; and the population under this period forms a large proportion of the whole. In England and Wales it is upwards of 36 per cent.

The deaths from all causes, at different ages, in London, in 1848, (the middle of the five years,) have not yet been published; but an abstract has been forwarded to me by the Registrar-General, and with these facts the following tables have been constructed:—

TABLE IX.—*Ascertained Suicides. Proportion to Deaths from all Causes in London.*

MALES AND FEMALES.													
AGES.	Deaths from all Causes in 1848 = (1)	5 (1)	Deaths from Suicide in the 5 years 1846-50.	Being one Suicide in	Deaths from all Causes in 1848.	5 (1)	Deaths from Suicide in the 5 years 1846-50.	Being one Suicide in	Deaths from all Causes in 1848. = (1)	5 (1)	Deaths from Suicide in the 5 years 1846-50.	Being one Suicide in	AGES.
10 to 14	1,190	5,950	7	850	1,190	5,950	7	850	} 3,398	16,990	185	92	10 to 14
15 „ 19	1,410	7,050	80	88									15 „ 19
20 „ 24	1,988	9,940	105	95	3,398	16,990	185	92					20 „ 24
25 „ 29	2,107	10,535	116	91									25 „ 29
30 „ 34	2,223	11,115	113	98	4,330	21,650	229	95					30 „ 34
35 „ 39	2,295	11,475	141	81									35 „ 39
40 „ 44	2,212	11,060	124	89	4,507	22,535	265	85					40 „ 44
45 „ 49	2,245	11,225	131	86									45 „ 49
50 „ 54	2,143	10,715	123	87	4,388	21,940	254	86					50 „ 54
55 „ 59	2,090	10,450	89	118									55 „ 59
60 „ 64	2,418	12,090	76	159	4,508	22,540	165	137	60 „ 64				
65 „ 69	2,227	11,135	43	259					65 „ 69				
70 „ 74	2,197	10,985	33	333	4,424	22,120	76	291	70 „ 74				
75 „ 79	1,740	8,700	10	870					75 „ 79				
80 „ 84	1,088	5,440	12	453	2,828	14,140	22	625					80 „ 84
TOTAL	29,573	147,865	1203	123									

It hence follows that for every 90 deaths, among males, between the ages 10 and 85, 1 is from suicide; for every 193 deaths of females, 1 is from the same cause; and with both sexes, it is 1 in 123.

It may be as well here to state that these results only show the proportion of *ascertained* suicides, and consequently do not include deaths recorded under the head of “Found drowned,”—a large proportion of which are doubtless suicidal.

The following abstract shows the proportion of suicidal to all deaths for two periods of life, viz. from 15 to 54, and from 55 to 84.

ABSTRACT C.

AGES.	MALES.			
	Deaths from all Causes in 1848. = (1)	5 (1)	Deaths from Suicide in the 5 years 1846-50.	Being one Suicide in
15 to 54	8,568	42,840	612	70
55 „ 84	5,499	27,495	198	139

ABSTRACT C.—*continued.*

AGES.	FEMALES.			
	Deaths from all Causes in 1848 = (1)	5 (1)	Deaths from Suicide in the 5 years 1846-50.	Being one Suicide in
15 „ 54	8,054	40,270	321	125
55 „ 84	6,261	31,305	65	482
MALES AND FEMALES.				
15 „ 54	16,622	83,110	933	89
55 „ 84	11,760	58,800	263	224

From these figures it will be seen that in the prime of life, viz. from 15 to 54, the proportion of deaths from suicide to those from all causes is—

Males	.	.	.	1 in 70
Females	.	.	.	1 „ 125
AND				
Both Sexes	.	.	.	1 in 89

These figures are very startling; and it is surely a subject of great importance, and one which demands serious attention, when we find that, with men in the prime of life, 1 in every 70 deaths is voluntary: and it may here be remarked that the greatest proportion of suicides is in the upper and middle classes; and it is observed as a general rule, that the poorest district has the least suicide.

Materials of the deepest interest would be afforded, if we could ascertain the causes of committing suicide, or the state of the mind at the time of committing it. This, in England, we are totally unable at present to do. The returns of the coroners are perhaps the most defective of all that are made in the country; not only do they omit the cause of the suicide, but in many instances the profession of the individual. In the three years 1846-48 the professions of only 60 per cent. of the whole are given. The most prominent of the particulars, however, of these returns is the expression “Temporary insanity,” which is all the information afforded on the subject; and this is returned in 999 cases out of

1000. Now, although the act of self-destruction implies a species of insanity, yet it does not arise, in many instances, from what is generally understood by the word "insanity:" and I would humbly submit for the consideration of more competent judges my decided opinion, that if verdicts of *felo-de-se* were more frequently returned by the coroners' juries, the number of suicides would be greatly diminished; for these reasons,—that the property of a *felo-de-se* is confiscate, and consequently would be lost to the family,—that the exposure would be so great, and that he would not be allowed to be buried in consecrated ground. This last consideration I am sure would deter a great many from suicide. It would, however, be only right to add, that there are frequent cases in which the party committing suicide is actually "insane" at the time.

Our neighbours the French seem to have paid more attention to the causes of suicide; and I have constructed the following table, from facts collected in the Prefecture of the Seine, relating to 511 cases of ascertained suicide:—

ABSTRACT D.—*Ascertained Suicides, Paris.*

CAUSES.	Number.	Per centage of total.
From love or wounded affections	100	20
„ disease, disgust of life, &c.	148	29
„ an evil course of life, loss at play	69	13
„ distress, loss of employment, embarrassed affairs	100	20
„ unknown motives	94	18
Total	511	100

This is a very remarkable statement, and will doubtless interest many of my readers. It will however give no idea of the causes of self-destruction in London, as they will be very different from those of Paris.

It is considered by some that deaths from intemperance should be classed as suicidal; and it may not be uninteresting here to give the results of a valuable paper by Mr. Neison on the "Rate of Mortality among Persons of Intemperate Habits."* This must necessarily be very briefly done; and to those interested in the subject, I should recommend a careful perusal of the paper itself, as it embraces many varied points of interest.

* Part iii., vol. xiii., of the *Journal of the Statistical Society*. Price 2s. 6d.

The following table has been made up, showing some of the facts arrived at :—

ABSTRACT E.—*Intemperance, England and Wales, 1847.*

AGES.	Ratio of deaths from intemperance to those from all causes.		Number dying yearly from intemperance.		Existing number of drunkards.		AGES.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
21 to 30	One in 36	One in 149	428	110	8641	2221	21 to 30
31 „ 40	21	151	646	99	13983	2143	31 „ 40
41 „ 50	16	78	867	172	14469	2870	41 „ 50
51 „ 60	22	84	666	163	10377	2540	51 „ 60
61 „ 70	41	168	435	107	5443	1339	61 „ 70
71 „ 80	138	1070	140	20	670	110	71 „ 80
Total . .	30	146	3182	671	53583	11223	. . Total.

And the following is an extract from a valuable paper by Mr. Farr : *—

“ Intemperance and suicide, as well as other violent deaths, are found associated in the registers ; and the professions peculiarly addicted to drunkenness have more than the due proportion of suicides. Drunkenness leads to this : but drunkenness is a sort of indirect suicide, and both are tendencies of the mind, indulged often from the same motives, and promoted by similar causes ; for in drunkenness the wretched find not only the gratification of an appetite, but the suspension of natural consciousness,—in death, they seek its cessation.”

That intemperance is one of the causes of suicide is certain ; and it would seemingly follow that reformation in the drinking usages of society would have some tendency to decrease the number of suicides. This I fancy can very well be made ; for, according to Mr. Porter, † £49,475,623 are yearly expended in the United Kingdom on spirits and beer, exclusive of that brewed in private families.

I do not think, however, that the great bulk of suicides are immediately connected with intemperance. Of 357 deaths from intemperance recorded in Mr. Neison’s paper, 9 were from suicide, being in the proportion of 1 to 40 ; and by Abstract E. it would

* On Violent Deaths—Third Annual Report of the Registrar-General—Appendix.

† On the Self-imposed Taxation of the Working Classes in the United Kingdom.—Part iv., vol. xiii., of the *Journal of the Statistical Society*.

appear that 3,182 males, and 671 females, or 3,853 of both sexes, die yearly in England and Wales from intemperance. Hence, if 1 in 40 of these are from suicide, it will show that 96 deaths occur yearly in England and Wales from suicide the result of intemperance. This number cannot form 10 per cent. of the whole; for in 1840 there were recorded 901 cases, which was below the average. The proportion of deaths from intemperance, too, in the male sex, is nearly five times greater than that in the female, being in the same proportion as crime.

The manner in which suicide is committed, at various ages, is a subject worthy of inquiry; and to afford an insight into this, the following table has been constructed:—

TABLE X.—*Ascertained Suicides, London, 1849–50.*

Committed by	AGE.	1849		1850		AGE.	1849		1850		AGE.	1849		1850	
		M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
Drowning	9	..	..	..	..	14	..	..	1	..	19	..	2	..	..
Hanging . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	2	1	..
Cutting throat . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Stabbing . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Throwing from heights	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Shooting . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Poisoning . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	1	..
Drowning	10	..	..	..	..	15	..	..	..	..	20	1	..	2	..
Hanging . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	1	..	..	"	1	..	..	..
Cutting throat . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Stabbing . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Throwing from heights	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Shooting . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Poisoning . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	1	..	..	..
Drowning	11	..	..	..	..	16	..	..	..	..	21	..	..	..	..
Hanging . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Cutting throat . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	1	..	..	..
Stabbing . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Throwing from heights	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	1	..
Shooting . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	1	..	..	..
Poisoning . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	1	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Drowning	12	..	..	..	..	17	..	..	..	..	22	..	1	1	2
Hanging . . . . .	"	..	..	1	..	"	..	1	..	..	"	1	..	..	..
Cutting throat . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Stabbing . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Throwing from heights	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Shooting . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	1	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Poisoning . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	1	1	..	"	1	..	..	..
Drowning	13	..	..	..	..	18	1	..	..	..	23	..	..	..	..
Hanging . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	1	..	..	"	1	..	1	1
Cutting throat . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	1	..	..	"	1	2	..	..
Stabbing . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Throwing from heights	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Shooting . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	1	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Poisoning . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	1	1	1	..	"	..	1	1	..

Committed by	AGE.	1849		1850		AGE.	1849		1850		AGE.	1849		1850	
		M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
Drowning	24	1	..	2	..	31	..	..	1	..	38	2	..	1	..
Hanging . . . . .	"	..	..	1	..	"	1	..	..	..	"	..	1	1	1
Cutting throat . . . . .	"	..	..	1	..	"	1	..	1	..	"	3	1	..	1
Stabbing . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	1	..	..	..
Throwing from heights	"	..	1	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	1	..	2	..
Shooting . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	1	..	..	..
Poisoning . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	1	..	..	"	1	1	3	1
Drowning	25	..	..	..	..	32	..	1	1	..	39	..	1	..	..
Hanging	"	..	1	..	..	"	..	..	1	..	"	1	..	2	..
Cutting throat	"	..	2	..	..	"	1	..	..	..	"	2	..	1	..
Stabbing . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Throwing from heights	"	..	1	..	1	"	1	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Shooting . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Poisoning	"	2	2	..	2	"	..	1	1	2	"	..	..	..	..
Drowning	26	1	1	1	1	33	..	..	..	..	40	..	1	..	1
Hanging . . . . .	"	..	..	2	..	"	..	..	4	..	"	..	..	3	..
Cutting throat	"	..	1	..	..	"	..	..	1	..	"	1	1	..	1
Stabbing . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Throwing from heights	"	..	1	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Shooting . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	1	..	..	..
Poisoning . . . . .	"	..	..	1	1	"	..	1	1	..	"	..	..	1	1
Drowning	27	1	..	..	..	34	1	..	1	..	41	1	..	1	..
Hanging . . . . .	"	..	..	1	1	"	..	2	1	..	"	..	1	1	..
Cutting throat	"	1	..	1	..	"	..	..	1	..	"	..	..	..	..
Stabbing . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	1	..	"	..	..	..	..
Throwing from heights	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Shooting . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	1	..
Poisoning . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	1	..	1	..	"	..	..	1	..
Drowning	28	..	2	..	..	35	2	1	..	..	42	..	1	..	1
Hanging	"	1	1	1	..	"	1	..	3	..	"	..	..	2	2
Cutting throat	"	1	..	..	..	"	..	..	2	..	"	..	..	..	..
Stabbing . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Throwing from heights	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	1	..	..
Shooting . . . . .	"	..	..	1	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Poisoning	"	2	..	..	..	"	..	..	2	..	"	..	..	..	..
Drowning	29	1	..	1	1	36	..	..	..	..	43	..	..	..	..
Hanging . . . . .	"	..	..	1	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	1	..	3	..
Cutting throat . . . . .	"	..	..	1	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	1	1	1	..
Stabbing . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Throwing from heights	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	1	..	"	..	..	..	..
Shooting . . . . .	"	..	..	1	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Poisoning	"	..	1	2	..	"	1	1	1	1	"	..	..	..	..
Drowning	30	1	..	..	..	37	..	..	..	..	44	..	..	1	..
Hanging	"	1	1	..	1	"	1	2	..	..	"	1	..	..	3
Cutting throat	"	1	..	1	..	"	1	..	1	1	"	1	..	1	..
Stabbing . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Throwing from heights	"	..	..	1	..	"	1	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Shooting . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Poisoning . . . . .	"	..	..	2	1	"	1	1	..	3	"	..	..	..	..

Committed by	AGE.	1849 1850				AGE.	1849 1850				AGE.	1849 1850			
		M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
Drowning	45	1	..	..	..	52	..	..	..	..	59	..	..	..	..
Hanging	"	1	..	1	..	"	3	..	2	..	"	1	..	1	..
Cutting throat	"	1	1	1	..	"	1	..	1	..	"	3	1	..	..
Stabbing . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	1	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Throwing from heights	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Shooting	"	1	..	1	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	1	..
Poisoning	"	..	1	1	1	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	1	..
Drowning	46	1	..	..	..	53	1	..	..	1	60	2	..	..	..
Hanging	"	1	1	2	..	"	1	1	4	..	"	1	..	2	..
Cutting throat . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	1	..	2	1	"	4	..	1	..
Stabbing . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Throwing from heights	"	1	..	..	1	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Shooting . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	2	..	1	..	"	1	..	..	..
Poisoning	"	1	..	..	..	"	..	2	1	..	"	..	..	1	1
Drowning	47	1	..	..	..	54	..	..	..	..	61	..	..	..	..
Hanging	"	5	..	2	1	"	..	1	1	1	"	1	..	..	..
Cutting throat . . . . .	"	..	..	1	..	"	..	1	1	..	"	..	..	..	..
Stabbing . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Throwing from heights	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	1	..	..	..
Shooting . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	1	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Poisoning	"	2	..	..	3	"	..	..	1	..	"	..	..	..	..
Drowning	48	..	..	..	..	55	..	2	1	..	62	..	..	..	..
Hanging	"	1	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	1	..	1	..
Cutting throat . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	1	..	1	..	"	..	..	..	..
Stabbing . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Throwing from heights	"	..	..	1	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Shooting . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	1	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Poisoning . . . . .	"	..	..	..	1	"	1	..	1	..	"	..	..	..	..
Drowning	49	..	..	1	1	56	..	..	..	..	63	1	1	..	..
Hanging . . . . .	"	..	..	2	..	"	4	..	1	1	"	2	..	1	..
Cutting throat	"	1	..	1	..	"	2	..	..	..	"	..	..	1	..
Stabbing . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Throwing from heights	"	..	..	1	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Shooting . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	1	..	"	..	..	..	..
Poisoning	"	1	..	..	1	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Drowning	50	..	1	1	2	57	..	..	..	..	64	1	..	1	1
Hanging	"	1	..	6	2	"	1	..	..	..	"	1	..	1	..
Cutting throat	"	2	1	2	..	"	1	1	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Stabbing . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Throwing from heights	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Shooting . . . . .	"	..	..	1	..	"	1	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Poisoning	"	..	2	1	..	"	..	..	1	1	"	..	..	..	..
Drowning	51	1	..	1	..	58	..	1	..	..	65	..	..	..	..
Hanging . . . . .	"	..	..	1	..	"	1	..	1	1	"	1	1	5	..
Cutting throat	"	2	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	1	..	..	..
Stabbing . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Throwing from heights	"	1	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Shooting . . . . .	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..	"	..	..	..	..
Poisoning	"	..	1	..	..	"	1	1	1	..	"	..	..	..	..

Statistics of Suicide.

Committed by	AGE.	1849		1850		AGE.	1849		1850		AGE.	1849		1850	
		M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
Drowning	66	.	.	.	.	73	.	.	.	.	80	.	.	.	.
Hanging . . . . .	"	.	.	.	.	"	1	.	.	1	"	.	.	.	.
Cutting throat	"	1	.	.	.	"	1	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.
Stabbing . . . . .	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.
Throwing from heights	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	1	.	.
Shooting . . . . .	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.
Poisoning . . . . .	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.
Drowning	67	.	.	.	.	74	.	.	.	.	81	.	.	.	.
Hanging	"	1	1	1	.	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.
Cutting throat	"	.	.	1	.	"	1	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.
Stabbing . . . . .	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.
Throwing from heights	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.
Shooting	"	.	.	1	.	"	.	.	1	.	"	.	.	.	.
Poisoning	"	.	.	1	.	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.
Drowning	68	1	.	.	.	75	.	.	.	.	82	1	.	.	.
Hanging . . . . .	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.
Cutting throat	"	1	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.	"	1	.	.	.
Stabbing . . . . .	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.
Throwing from heights	"	.	.	1	.	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.
Shooting . . . . .	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.
Poisoning . . . . .	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.
Drowning	69	.	.	.	.	76	.	.	.	.	83	.	.	.	.
Hanging	"	1	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.
Cutting throat	"	.	.	1	.	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.
Stabbing . . . . .	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.
Throwing from heights	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.
Shooting . . . . .	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	1	.
Poisoning . . . . .	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	1	.
Drowning	70	.	.	.	.	77	.	.	.	.	84	.	.	.	.
Hanging	"	1	.	.	1	"	.	1	.	.	"	.	.	.	.
Cutting throat . . . . .	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.
Stabbing . . . . .	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.
Throwing from heights	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.
Shooting . . . . .	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.
Poisoning . . . . .	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.
Drowning	71	.	.	.	.	78	.	.	.	.	85	.	.	.	.
Hanging	"	1	1	1	2	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.
Cutting throat	"	1	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.
Stabbing . . . . .	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.
Throwing from heights	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.
Shooting . . . . .	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.
Poisoning . . . . .	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.
Drowning	72	.	.	.	.	79	.	.	.	.	Not	.	.	.	1
Hanging	"	.	.	1	.	"	.	.	.	.	stated.	.	.	.	.
Cutting throat	"	.	.	1	.	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.
Stabbing . . . . .	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.
Throwing from heights	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.
Shooting	"	1	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.
Poisoning . . . . .	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.	"	.	.	.	.

A more condensed statement of this and Table II. of my former paper will be found in the following :—

ABSTRACT F.—*Ascertained Suicides, London, 1846–50.*

MALES.									
AGES.	Drowning.	Hanging.	Cutting throat.	Stabbing.	Throwing from heights.	Shooting.	Poisoning.	Total.	AGES.
10 to 14	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	3	10 to 14
15 „ 19	4	13	2	..	..	4	13	36	15 „ 19
20 „ 24	10	22	10	..	..	7	11	60	20 „ 24
25 „ 29	7	18	15	..	1	8	16	65	25 „ 29
30 „ 34	10	22	24	..	3	1	13	73	30 „ 34
35 „ 39	10	34	25	5	6	5	17	102	35 „ 39
40 „ 44	6	33	24	2	1	7	10	83	40 „ 44
45 „ 49	15	38	25	..	5	3	13	99	45 „ 49
50 „ 54	7	36	31	2	1	7	9	93	50 „ 54
55 „ 59	5	30	15	1	1	3	9	64	55 „ 59
60 „ 64	10	22	18	1	1	3	3	58	60 „ 64
65 „ 69	1	19	9	1	2	2	2	36	65 „ 69
70 „ 74	..	13	5	..	..	3	3	24	70 „ 74
75 „ 79	1	4	2	..	..	..	..	7	75 „ 79
80 „ 84	1	5	1	1	..	..	1	9	80 „ 84
Total . . .	87	312	206	13	21	53	120	812	.... Total
FEMALES.									
10 to 14	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	4	10 to 14
15 „ 19	15	11	2	..	1	..	15	44	15 „ 19
20 „ 24	14	8	7	..	3	..	13	45	20 „ 24
25 „ 29	15	6	9	..	5	..	15	50	25 „ 29
30 „ 34	6	9	5	1	1	..	18	40	30 „ 34
35 „ 39	3	12	7	..	1	..	15	38	35 „ 39
40 „ 44	7	15	9	1	3	..	6	41	40 „ 44
45 „ 49	5	9	4	..	4	..	10	32	45 „ 49
50 „ 54	6	10	3	..	1	..	10	30	50 „ 54
55 „ 59	8	5	5	2	..	..	5	25	55 „ 59
60 „ 64	3	9	3	..	..	..	3	18	60 „ 64
65 „ 69	2	4	..	..	..	..	1	7	65 „ 69
70 „ 74	..	7	..	..	..	..	2	9	70 „ 74
75 „ 79	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	3	75 „ 79
80 „ 84	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	3	80 „ 84
Total . . .	87	109	54	4	20	..	115	389	.... Total

ABSTRACT G.—*Ascertained Suicides, London, 1846–50.*

MALES AND FEMALES.									
AGES.	Drowning.	Hanging.	Cutting throat.	Stabbing.	Throwing from heights.	Shooting.	Poisoning.	Total.	AGES.
10 to 14	3	4	..	..	..	..	..	7	10 to 14
15 „ 19	19	24	4	..	1	4	28	80	15 „ 19
20 „ 24	24	30	17	..	3	7	24	105	20 „ 24
25 „ 29	22	24	24	..	6	8	31	115	25 „ 29
30 „ 34	16	31	29	1	4	1	31	113	30 „ 34
35 „ 39	13	46	32	5	7	5	32	140	35 „ 39
40 „ 44	13	48	33	3	4	7	16	124	40 „ 44
45 „ 49	20	47	29	..	9	3	23	131	45 „ 49
50 „ 54	13	46	34	2	2	7	19	123	50 „ 54
55 „ 59	13	35	20	3	1	3	14	89	55 „ 59
60 „ 64	13	31	21	1	1	3	6	76	60 „ 64
65 „ 69	3	23	9	1	2	2	3	43	65 „ 69
70 „ 74	..	20	5	..	..	3	5	33	70 „ 74
75 „ 79	1	7	2	..	..	..	..	10	75 „ 79
80 „ 84	1	5	1	1	1	..	3	12	80 „ 84
Total . . .	174	421	260	17	41	53	235	1201	.... Total.

From these figures it will be seen that each age has its peculiar method of terminating life. Of 812 male suicides, 312 (or 38 per cent.) were accomplished by hanging, 219 (or 27 per cent.) by cutting throat and stabbing, 120 by poisoning, 87 by drowning, 53 by shooting, and 21 by throwing from heights. Of 389 female suicides, the greatest number were committed by poison, viz. 115, or about 30 per cent.; and hanging, viz. 109, or 28 per cent. It is a remarkable fact, that in the five years there was not one case of a female self-destruction by shooting. The following table shows the per centage, at different ages, of each class of suicide, to the total number :—

TABLE XI.—*Proportion of Suicides committed from various Causes, to 100 from all Causes, among*

MALES.								
AGES.	Drowning and Suffocation.	Hanging and Strangulation.	Cutting throat and Stabbing.	Throwing from Heights.	Shooting.	Poisoning.	All Causes.	AGES.
15 to 24	14·6	36·4	12·6	..	11·4	25·	100	15 to 24
25 „ 34	12·3	29·	28·3	2·9	6·5	21·	100	25 „ 34
35 „ 44	8·6	36·2	30·3	3·8	6·5	14·6	100	35 „ 44
45 „ 54	11·4	38·6	30·2	3·1	5·2	11·4	100	45 „ 54
55 „ 64	12·3	42·7	28·7	1·6	4·9	9·8	100	55 „ 64
65 „ 74	1·7	53·3	25·	3·4	8·3	8·3	100	65 „ 74
75 „ 84	12·5	56·3	25·	..	..	6·2	100	75 „ 84
15 to 84	10·7	38·2	27·1	2·7	6·5	14·8	100	15 to 84
FEMALES.								
15 to 24	32·6	21·3	10·1	4·5	..	31·5	100	15 to 24
25 „ 34	23·3	16·7	16·7	6·7	..	36·6	100	25 „ 34
35 „ 44	12·7	34·2	21·5	5·0	..	26·6	100	35 „ 44
45 „ 54	17·7	30·6	11·3	8·1	..	32·3	100	45 „ 54
55 „ 64	25·6	32·6	23·2	..	..	18·6	100	55 „ 64
65 „ 74	12·5	68·8	..	..	..	18·7	100	65 „ 74
75 „ 84	..	50·	..	16·7	..	33·3	100	75 „ 84
15 to 84	21·8	28·	15·1	5·2	..	29·9	100	15 to 84
MALES AND FEMALES.								
15 to 24	23·2	29·2	11·4	2·2	5·9	28·1	100	15 to 24
25 „ 34	16·7	24·1	23·7	4·4	3·9	27·2	100	25 „ 34
35 „ 44	9·9	35·6	27·6	4·2	4·5	18·2	100	35 „ 44
45 „ 54	13·	36·6	25·6	4·3	4·	16·5	100	45 „ 54
55 „ 64	15·8	40·	27·2	1·2	3·7	12·1	100	55 „ 64
65 „ 74	3·9	56·6	19·7	2·6	6·6	10·6	100	65 „ 74
75 „ 84	9·1	54·5	18·2	4·5	..	13·7	100	75 „ 84
15 to 84	14·3	34·9	23·2	3·5	4·4	19·7	100	15 „ 84

It will be seen that poisoning gradually decreases as life advances. Between the ages 15 and 25, it forms 25 per cent., or one-fourth of the total number ; but between 75 and 85, it is only 6 per cent. At the same time, hanging increases. It is curious to see the very different manner in which females commit suicide from males. Thus, between the ages 15 and 85, of females, 22 per cent. terminate life by drowning, and only 11 per cent. of males. Again, death by hanging, with males, forms 38 per cent.,—and cutting

throat and stabbing, 27 per cent. of the whole ; while with females they are only 28 and 15 per cent. respectively. Also, poisoning with males is 15 per cent. ; and with females, 30 per cent.

Of the 511 suicides committed in Paris, (the causes of which are given in Abstract D. preceding,) the following table has been formed, showing the manner in which they were committed :—

ABSTRACT H.—*Ascertained Suicides, Paris.*

COMMITTED BY	Number.	Per centage of total.
Means of voluntary falls from great heights	65	12·8
Strangulation	66	13·0
Pointed and cutting instruments	45	8·8
Fire Arms	48	9·5
Poison	31	6·1
Asphyxia from charcoal vapour	86	16·9
Drowning	170	32·9
Total	511	100·0

The results here arrived at are very different from those given in Table XI. Here we have 17 per cent. by asphyxia from charcoal vapour. In London, during the five years, there was one case—that of a male aged 33.

Deaths from poison are of great importance, as showing the opportunities afforded for procuring it. In Paris, suicide by poisoning forms only 6 per cent. of the whole ; while in London it is 20 per cent. The following table shows the proportion to the population, at different ages, of those terminating life through this means :—

TABLE XII.—*Ascertained Suicides by Poisoning,
London, 1846–50.*

AGES.	MALES.			FEMALES.			AGES.
	Population in 1848.	Deaths from Poisoning in 5 years.	Being one yearly in	Population in 1848.	Deaths from Poisoning in 5 years.	Being one yearly in	
15 to 24	199,539	24	8,314	249,933	28	8,926	15 to 24
25 „ 34	189,101	29	6,521	229,383	33	6,951	25 „ 34
35 „ 44	137,070	27	5,077	156,292	21	7,443	35 „ 44
45 „ 54	89,133	22	4,051	101,170	20	5,058	45 „ 54
55 „ 64	49,455	12	4,121	58,844	8	7,355	55 „ 64
65 „ 74	23,917	5	4,783	31,983	3	10,661	65 „ 74
75 „ 84	6,815	1	6,815	10,981	2	5,490	75 „ 84
TOTAL.	695,030	120	5,792	838,586	115	7,292	TOTAL.

Suicide, too, by the different poisons, is a very important question, and presents to the medico-legal investigator a wide field for research.

TABLE XIII.—*Ascertained Suicides, London, 1846–50.*

BY POISONING WITH																			AGES.
AGES.	Oxalic Acid.		Hydrocyanic Acid.		Arsenic.		Opium.		Sulphuric Acid.		Corrosive Sublimate.		Other Poisons.		All Poisons.				
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Both.		
10 to 14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10 to 14
15 „ 19	1	4	4	4	3	4	1	2	..	..	1	..	3	1	13	15	28	15 „ 19
20 „ 24	..	3	5	3	2	6	..	..	..	..	1	1	3	..	11	13	24	20 „ 24
25 „ 29	4	5	5	..	1	3	5	4	..	2	..	..	1	1	16	15	31	25 „ 29
30 „ 34	1	4	6	5	1	2	4	2	..	1	1	1	..	3	13	18	31	30 „ 34	
35 „ 39	1	5	5	3	3	..	4	7	1	1	1	..	2	..	17	15	32	35 „ 39	
40 „ 44	3	2	4	2	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	10	6	16	40 „ 44
45 „ 49	..	2	7	1	1	2	3	2	2	2	..	..	..	1	13	10	23	45 „ 49
50 „ 54	1	2	2	1	1	1	4	4	..	2	1	..	..	..	9	10	19	50 „ 54
55 „ 59	..	2	2	1	2	..	4	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	9	5	14	55 „ 59
60 „ 64	..	1	1	..	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	6	60 „ 64
65 „ 69	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	1	3	65 „ 69
70 „ 74	..	..	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	2	5	70 „ 74
75 „ 79	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	75 „ 79
80 „ 84	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	3	80 „ 84
TOTAL	12	30	45	22	17	22	27	23	4	8	5	2	10	8	120	115	235	TOTAL.	

By Tables II. and X. we learn the very different modes in which males terminate life from females; but the favourite poisons of either sex is perhaps more observable.

For all ages, we have

From Oxalic Acid . . . 12 males, and 30 females.
 From Hydrocyanic Acid . . . 45 „ 22 „
 From Arsenic . . . 17 „ 22 „

AND
 From these three . . . 74 males, and 74 females.

Exactly equal; making 148 (or 63 per cent.) of all poisoning.

From opium, we have 27 males, and 23 females, or 50 of both sexes. This table, although last, is perhaps the most important of all, and opens at once to the mind matter sufficient to fill a volume.

Another interesting point to elicit is the influence of seasons on the number of suicides. This, with the present facts, we are unable to do, in consequence of the coroners not returning many of the deaths until the end of the quarters: consequently we have very large numbers in each of the four quarter-months.

From an inquiry into the suicides of Westminster, from 1812 to 1836 inclusive,* we are furnished with the numbers which had taken place in the different months; and it may not be uninteresting to give these results.

ABSTRACT I.—*A Statement of the Total Number of Suicides, of each Sex, committed in Westminster, in each Month during the 25 Years from 1812 to 1836; also the Per Centage Proportion of the Number committed in each Month; and the Proportion which the Number of each Sex bears to the other.*

MONTHS.	Total No. of Suicides from 1812 to 1836.			Per Centage Proportion committed in each Month.			Per Centage Proportion of Male to Female.	
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.
January	35	20	55	7·3	11·2	8·4	64·	36·
February	39	12	51	8·2	6·8	7·8	77·	23·
March	52	11	63	10·9	6·2	9·6	83·	17·
April	40	11	51	8·4	6·2	7·8	79·	21·
May	41	15	56	8·5	8·4	8·5	73·	27·
June	60	15	75	12·6	8·4	11·4	80·	20·
July	50	16	66	10·4	9·0	10·1	76·	24·
August	30	15	45	6·3	8·4	6·9	67·	33·
September	30	18	48	6·3	10·1	7·4	62·	38·
October	28	15	43	5·9	8·4	6·5	65·	35·
November	32	17	49	6·7	9·6	7·4	65·	35·
December	41	13	54	8·5	7·3	8·2	76·	24·
TOTAL..	478	178	656	100·	100·	100·	73·	27·

It will be seen that suicide is greatest, not (as the poets have it) in November, but in the hottest months. Mr. Farr also establishes this fact, and gives the following table, being the suicides in England and Wales in the two years 1838–39:†—

ABSTRACT K.

	Males.	Females.	Males and Females.
January, February, March	312	122	434
April, May, June	382	181	563
July, August, September	384	155	539
October, November, December	309	156	465

And from a recent conversation which I had with M. Guerry, I understand that suicide in Paris is also greatest in the hottest months.

* *Statistical Journal*, part ii., vol. i.

† Appendix to Third Annual Report of Registrar-General.

I cannot conclude the present paper without inserting the following table, showing the number of suicides committed, and the number attempted, but prevented by the police, as well as those otherwise prevented, being extracted from the Criminal Returns of the Metropolitan Police :—

ABSTRACT L.—*From the Criminal Returns of the Metropolitan Police.*

YEAR.	SUICIDES.			
	Committed.	Attempted, but prevented by Police.	Attempted, and otherwise prevented.	Total prevented.
1838	83	36	65	101
1839	96	59	108	167
1840	102	30	114	144
1841	139	29	96	125
1842	134	18	91	109
1843	112	27	93	120
1844	115	19	123	142
1845	144	15	92	107
1846	162	24	87	111
1847	152	13	101	114
1848	100	11	67	78
1849	131	15	60	75
1850	140	10	78	88

This is but a single illustration of the great care required in making all statistical inquiries. It would naturally be expected that the figures given in the above abstract were correct; and they have doubtless been used as such. However, we find that in 1848 the number of suicides which took place in London, according to the Police Returns, was 100, when the actual number was 247, or about 150 per cent. greater. It thus appears that the Police Returns are not of the slightest use: in fact, they are worse than useless, for they are apt to mislead the mind, and cause very incorrect conclusions to be arrived at. The number of suicides attempted, but prevented, is a subject of great importance; but as those under the head "Committed" vary so largely from the true number, it would not be wise to consider those under the head "Attempted" as correct.

It is hoped that the facts now brought forward will throw some light on a subject of great moment to society. The whole question is one so extensive, that it would be utterly impossible in a paper like the present to enter into a discussion of its various points;

but it is hoped that the facts given so roughly in the present paper will induce others, more competent than myself, to take up the subject.

The best wishes of the author will be attained, if the facts now brought forward are instrumental in adding one link to the safeguard of society.

The Epidemiological Society: its Views and Objects.

By J. O. McWILLIAM, M.D., R.N., F.R.S.

WHETHER we look back into the past history of those pestilences by which, in former times, England has been visited, or more immediately realize the extensive and fatal prevalence of epidemic diseases during late years, we cannot but be surprised that an Epidemiological Society in this country is only of to-day's creation.

Without, however, dwelling on the past, I would observe, as regards the future, that a Society especially devoted to the investigation of epidemic diseases, if properly supported and efficiently managed, cannot fail to exert a marked and beneficial influence on the right direction of such measures as may be adopted for the promotion of public health.

That the class of diseases included in the general term "epidemic" demands a distinct and systematic inquiry, conducted in a comprehensive and philosophic spirit, is a proposition that hardly needs being urged at the present day. If, however, any argument for the necessity of such an investigation were wanting, it is to be found in the emphatic statements which appear in the remarks introductory to the "Objects" of the Epidemiological Society, when we find that "the yearly average number of deaths in England alone from zymotic affections, in the five years 1838-42, amounted to 67,345, or 19 per cent. of the total annual mortality from all specific causes; whilst, as far as London is concerned, the deaths from zymotic diseases in 1848 amounted (exclusively of the cholera deaths in that year) to 17,634—a number exceeding by 3,033 the total deaths in the metropolis from cholera during the whole of the late epidemic."

As having an immediate and forcible bearing on this important question, I cannot do better than advert to the striking and instructive results of Professor Christison's elaborate examination